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ORGANIC DISEASE OF THE OVARIES.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—A case of diseased ovaries has recently come under my observation, and of a character somewhat singular. Although I was not the attending physician, I had the opportunity of witnessing the progress of the case in its latter stages, and its fatal termination. The patient was an unmarried lady, of very respectable parentage, in Buckfield, Me. If you should deem the case of sufficient importance, I should be glad to see it made public in your Journal.

THOS. H. BROWN.

Paris Hill, Me., July 10, 1841.

Arrilla Tucker, at 31, was attacked with disease while at Taunton, Mass., some time in July, 1840. She was not very sick at first; but was alarmed at the swelling which soon made its appearance in the abdomen. She continued to work, although taking medicine, from July till the first of November, when she went to Boston and entered the Massachusetts General Hospital. She remained there for nine weeks, at the end of which time, not finding that she improved any, she concluded to come home, although the journey was likely to be hazardous. She said that Dr. Bigelow examined her, and prescribed for her while at the Hospital, calling her case *encysted dropsey*. Dr. Bigelow and others will, no doubt, recognize the case.

She arrived at her father's about the first of February, when she put herself under the care of Dr. Comstock. He attended her for the space of three or four weeks, when he thought her case to be beyond recovery. This was in March. About the middle of the month it was thought best to perform the operation of paracentesis, her bowels having swelled so much as to impede respiration and digestion. The operation was accordingly performed in the usual way, at the linea alba, about three or four inches below the umbilicus. A discharge of a half teacupful of straw-colored jelly was the only result of the operation. Dr. Kittredge, who was present with Dr. Comstock during the operation, thought that a larger quantity of fluid might be discharged if the opening were made at the side.

At the last of March I attended the case in company with Dr. Kittredge, who was now the attending physician. At this time the operation of paracentesis was again performed, on the right side, between the umbilicus and the anterior superior spinous process of the ileum, with no

better success than at first. We thought best to take out the canula and enlarge the opening, so as to give the masses of jelly an opportunity to escape. This being resolved upon, we enlarged the opening an inch in length, when a quart or more of the masses of jelly were soon discharged. These masses were of all sizes—some very small, and some so large as to clog the opening, and were got out with difficulty. They were irregular in shape, and about the consistence of the white of an egg, straw-colored and inodorous. In the course of a day or two upwards of a gallon of this fluid was discharged, when the wound closed up. We made an effort, while the wound was open, to introduce a probe; but it was immediately arrested by a hard substance, just within the parieties of the abdomen. We could, however, carry the probe in every direction around the substance. We thought this substance a tumor or cyst. Did not puncture it, although we thought of doing so.

At this time (when the wound healed), about the first of April, she was very large, and suffered much from dyspnoea, indigestion, &c. Drastic purgatives, diuretics and diaphoretics would give her no relief, or diminish, in any perceptible degree, the size of the distended abdomen. She continued to live, in great distress, from the first of April, constantly growing larger and larger, until the 10th inst., when death came to her relief.

Post-mortem Examination, by Dr. Kittredge and myself, six hours after death.—The body looks natural. Skin but little discolored. Lower extremities very large and oedematous. Upper extremities, thorax and face, but slightly so. Abdomen enormously distended—so much so that it measured four feet and four inches around the largest part. The distance from the ensiform cartilage to the symphysis pubis was two feet six inches. We made an incision into the abdomen, and there followed a tremendous gush of the kind of fluid above described.

The *omentum* was spread out over the superior portion of the bowels, and entirely disorganized. Some of the gelatinous and fatty masses, of which it was composed, were of a cartilaginous hardness, an inch or more in thickness, from one to three inches in diameter, and of an opaque, whitish color. The natural appearance of the whole was entirely lost.

Ovaries.—After removing a great quantity of the fluid and the omentum, the first thing that came to view was a large *sac* or *cyst*, filled with straw-colored matter. We traced the origin or attachment of this cyst, which occupied the superior portion of the abdominal cavity, to the right ovum. As we were ascertaining the attachment of this, we discovered another cyst, of nearly equal size, on the left, situated just below and in contact with the other. These cysts had both apparently been so distended with the fluid they contained as to burst, when their contents, some time prior to death, were discharged into the cavity of the abdomen. In the one on the left side the opening was at the superior portion, and six inches in diameter. Other smaller openings were seen in different parts of it. The cyst on the right side had several small openings, where the jelly-like fluid was discharging itself. This latter cyst measured about three feet around, and was of an oval form; the other not quite as large. Each cyst had various irregular partitions, some large and some small, all

full of fluid. Saw nothing about the cysts that appeared like the ovaria. The left cyst had its only attachment where the left ovum would have been in the normal state, i. e. at the lateral ligament of the uterus. The attachment was two inches wide and half an inch in thickness—was not very firm, in consequence of thickening and softening of the ligament and peritoneum. The right cyst had the same attachment as the left, and had also formed another. As it ascended towards the stomach, a portion of the jejunum—a foot in length—had become closely adherent to its posterior surface. The membranes covering the cysts were for the most part firm, smooth and shining.

Uterus and Fallopian Tubes.—These cysts having been removed, we examined the uterus and appendages. The tubes were very large, eight or nine inches in length, and completely closed up, so that no air could be blown through them. Their color was whitish. The fimbriated extremity was very large, and the fimbriae were very plainly seen. The uterus was scarcely its natural size, and very much flattened—the antero-posterior diameter not being a quarter of an inch. It seemed to be compressed, but not diseased.

The whole peritoneum was studded with adherent particles and small masses of gelatinous fluid. In some places it was difficult to clear it off, the adhesion being so tenacious. The mesenteric glands were entirely disorganized. They were very much enlarged, each globule being the size of a large bean. They were hard, of an opaque white color, and easily separated one from another. The liver, spleen and pancreas all appeared more or less compressed and diseased. They were all entire.

The mucous membrane of the stomach was soft and easily torn from its connections. In fact, it was so soft that it might have been washed away.

We weighed the fluid, the cysts, and the small quantity of blood which came away, and they weighed *eighty-five pounds*.

Remarks.—The above is a singular organic disease of the ovaries. It differs from any disease of those organs I ever saw described. It is not scirrhus, nor enormous distension from pus, water or fat, but a peculiar degeneration of these organs. The disease, without any doubt, originated at the ovaries. They began, from some cause unknown, to enlarge, and to secrete or to be filled up with the straw-colored jelly above described, when at last the outer membrane, though as the disease progressed it grew thicker and stronger, gave way, and let its contents into the cavity of the abdomen. Nothing arrested, nothing could arrest the disease at this stage, and the patient of course died. If there are cases similar to this described by any author, I should be pleased to be referred to them. The obscurity in which diseases of the ovaries are enveloped, is proverbial, so that too much light cannot be thrown upon them. The treatment in this case was pursued on principles analogous to those of dropsy. The medicines had no specific action on the ovaries; and even if physicians could have known the precise seat and nature of the disease, no better treatment could have been devised. Are there any medicines that have a specific action on the ovaries? If so, for the good of the unfortunate let them be pointed out.

REVIEW OF PROF. SMITH'S SELECT DISCOURSES.—NO. IV.

ON THE "FUNCTIONS OF THE NERVES."

PROFESSOR SMITH is not a believer in the theory of Dugald Stewart, to whose metaphysical school he belongs, that "the capacities of the human mind have been in all ages the same; and that the diversity of phenomena exhibited by our species is the result merely of the different circumstances in which men are placed." He believes that there are *national* as well as *individual* differences of character, and so far does he carry his opinion, as to maintain that mental peculiarities "are stamped upon us before any of the organs are developed, or a vestige of the brain can be discovered"! It is not for us to reconcile this opinion with his favorite doctrine that all these peculiarities are owing to "diversities in the physical constitution of man"—in other words, to a "strong" or weak "action" in certain organs; for if they were stamped upon us *before the organs existed*, then we see not why they should depend solely on said "action"! Yet, though men "may differ more in their intellectual powers, than in their physical strength," yet we do not believe that "we all see, hear, taste, feel and smell equally well." We hold that there are as many grades or degrees of acuteness in these senses, as in the rational and moral faculties.

Dr. S. states that "he is acquainted with no fact, which tends to evince any especial connection between the *cerebellum* and sexual feeling"! We beg leave to refer him to the 6th vol. of Gall's work on "the Functions of the Brain," and to the late work on the cerebellum by Drs. Gall, Vimont and Broussais, translated by Mr. Combe, for a multitude of facts which go to sustain this connection. Indeed they may be found scattered throughout all our medical journals, and we are astonished that any man, who has eyes of his own, has failed to observe this connection for himself.* The author sagely observes that "the swelling of the neck in certain animals proves nothing." Indeed! Suppose that the African manifests stronger sexual passions than the Caucasian, he has also less intellectual and moral power to control it. There is no proof whatever that "amativeness is at zero, in the aborigines of this continent," as Dr. S. asserts; on the contrary we believe it to be a prominent trait in the Indian character, as later writers maintain.

If we come to comparative anatomy, "phrenology," says our author, "fares no better. In the whale, the brain is absolutely large, yet the animal is dull and stupid." Here is the same old mistake of making the *absolute size* of the brain, a test of the intellectual faculties, when these depend solely on the relative development of certain portions of the *same* brain. Phrenology acknowledges no such doctrine. The brain in some of the lower animals may be larger than in man, and yet, if, as is actually the case, it be composed of parts appropriated to the exercise of muscular energy, or the manifestation of the animal propensities, its

* The doctor observes, in defence of his perceptive organs, that he is a "good shot on the wing," and that "as a hunter of deer and foxes, he can mark the flying quarry, and detect the faint traces of larger game, or find his way in the forest with as much dexterity as any sportsman with whom he has associated, whose general habits have borne any analogy to his own." This is doubtless very satisfactory, *quaer ad hoc*; but we have our doubts whether our friend's perceptive faculties have been equally exercised upon cranial developments.

possessor must, according to the phrenological doctrine, be far inferior in understanding and sagacity to man, or to another animal, which though possessing a smaller brain, is composed chiefly of parts destined to manifest intellectual power. This is actually the case with the whale, and the elephant, which have brains larger than man, and yet the portions appropriated to the intellect are very much smaller. In like manner, the brains of the monkey and dog are smaller than those of the ox, ass and hog, and yet they have more sagacity, and we find the anterior lobes of the brain relatively larger. As Mr. Combe remarks, "to apply the principles of phrenology to brutes, it would be necessary to discover what parts manifest intellect and what propensity, in each species; and then to compare the power of manifesting each faculty with the size of its appropriate organ. If size were found not to be a measure of power, then, in that species, the rule under discussion would fail; but even this would not authorize us to conclude that it did not hold good in regard to man; for human phrenology is founded, not on analogy, but on positive observation. Some persons are pleased to affirm, that the brains of the lower animals consist of the same parts as the human brain, only on a smaller scale; but this is highly erroneous. If the student will procure brains of the sheep, dog, fox, calf, horse or hog, and compare them with the human brain, or the casts of it sold in the shops, he will find a variety of parts, especially in the convolutions, which form the organs of the moral sentiments and the reflecting faculties, wanting in the animals."

The fact is, that the truth of phrenology is most fully sustained by comparative anatomy. It is acknowledged to be a general law of nature, that the more extended and complex the functional acts, the more complicated are the parts designed for their performance. Accordingly we find that man, of all animals, has a brain of the most complicated structure; then, in the order enumerated, are quadrupeds, birds, reptiles, fishes and insects. The higher we ascend in the scale of nature, the more parts exist above the *chorda oblongata*; till rising from fishes and reptiles, through the various species of warm-blooded brutes, all distinguished by the relative magnitude of each cerebral part, according to their several mental characters, we at last arrive at man, in whom cerebral development has reached its maximum; and yet, with all these well-known and demonstrated facts, Dr. S. thinks that phrenology can derive no support from comparative anatomy! We are tempted to exclaim, with Dr. Vimont, "where is the man of information and sincerity who will not agree with us, that the ideas and acquirements of those who have passed the 60th year of their age always turn in the same circle, that all their actions are purely mechanical and in routine?" We know that it is difficult at this period of life, and not altogether agreeable to our pride and self-complacency, to begin a series of observations and inquiries in a new science, which may probably lead to results opposed to the creed of our earlier years, and altogether foreign to our stereotyped notions, and to our early studies and associations. In such a case, modesty and silence become us; and we should hesitate to expose our own ignorance, obstinacy and weakness; and as, possibly, our minds begin to exhibit the characteristics of second childhood, we should try to imitate the meekness and docility of

that first period, when the mind, without a shadow of prejudice, expands to the reception of *all* truth, as the flowers expand to the warmth of the morning sun !

We cannot suppose that Dr. Smith is ignorant of Dr. Vimont's great work on "Human and Comparative Phrenology," in which are contained the results of observations and dissections of several thousand heads of animals of every class and order, and in which not a single fact can be found adverse to the great doctrines of Gall. Indeed, in 1827, nine years after Dr. Vimont commenced his investigations, he laid before the Institute of France a memoir for the prize of physiology ; and this was accompanied by 2500 heads belonging to animals of different classes, orders, genera and species ; 1500 of which were those of animals whose habits were perfectly known to him. And yet our Professor, without making a single dissection, authoritatively, and, as it were, *ex cathedra*, pronounces that phrenology derives no support from comparative anatomy. On this point, he considers that the crude and notoriously false assertions of M. Lafarque (*interne des hopitaux*) outweigh the positive and multiplied facts of Gall and Vimont.* Nothing would seem to be wanting to settle the whole question, but a few certificates, such as Dr. Sewall has furnished from ex-presidents, senators and doctors of divinity. Such authority in favor of a "brainless materialism," and of the doctrine that a man may do as well without brains as with, would be quite as apposite, if not more weighty, than the objections advanced by Dr. Smith.

But even admitting that mental character invariably corresponded with the cerebral developments, Dr. S. maintains that this would furnish no proof that they stood in the relation of cause and effect. "The correspondence might be *casual*, or it might be due to some common, though unknown source" ! This would, indeed, be a coincidence next to miraculous. It is tantamount to the syllogism, all rational beings have the anterior cerebral lobes largely developed—man is a rational being—man, therefore, has them largely developed ; but this large development has no connection with his rationality. Suppose that it was always found, that acuteness of *smell* was associated with a large olfactory organ ; acuteness of *sight*, with a large eye ; and of *hearing*, with a large ear : should we be warranted in saying that the acuteness of these senses had nothing to do with the size of the organs ? It is just as unphilosophical to admit a correspondence between the mental affections and their organs, and then deny that the organs have any agency in producing such correspondence. But our author thinks this correspondence cannot be made out, "so profoundly ignorant are we of the whole subject" ! Now, we protest against his speaking for any body but himself in this matter ; that he is profoundly ignorant of the facts in the case, we admit—but it does not follow that others are as ignorant as he is.—(Another specimen of reasoning *a seipso* !) This appeal to our ignorance, Dr. S. calls a "round-

* Dr. S. endorses the absurd position of M. Lafarque, that the form of the head, and consequently of the brain, depends *altogether* upon the mechanical construction of the skeleton, and that this construction is itself regulated by the manner in which the animal stands, moves and uses its organs of mastication ! Consequently the head of man is globular, because the position of man is erect, so that it may be nicely poised upon its centre of support. But why not suppose that the skeleton was made *for* the head, instead of the head *for* the skeleton ?

ing off of the argument!" Not only are the premises, he thinks, unsound, but the conclusion is "illegitimate." There are no facts on which to base the "assumption of the organs," and therefore they are "the creatures of fancy"! Thus ends our author's argument to prove the falsity of the second proposition. As it is not our object to go into the proofs in detail, in favor of phrenology, but merely to point out the fallacy of our author's reasoning, we shall offer nothing further on this part of the subject, having succeeded, as we believe, in demonstrating the entire inappositeness and inconclusiveness of the argument, if it may even be dignified by that name. Two or three negative cases, or rather skeletons of cases, have been adduced to put down some volumes of well-attested positive facts, going to prove the correspondence of certain mental traits, with certain cerebral developments—all which are passed over in silence, or rather with the denial that any such facts exist. With these exceptions, the author's whole work is made up of fine-spun metaphysical disquisitions. Now, as phrenology is a science of pure observation, and to be tested only by facts, it would seem a singular mode of reasoning to appeal to "ignorance," "the doctrine of chances," and "possible contingencies," instead of boldly marching up to the citadel, in the only successful mode in which it could possibly be approached. We must do the author, however, the justice to acknowledge that he has made the most *ingenious*, and to the ignorant, the most plausible attack on the science which we have yet seen, and infinitely more honest and creditable than the wretched caricature of Dr. Sewall, or the miserable abortion of Dr. Reese. How much more honorable would it have been for all, to have held their judgment in abeyance until they had thoroughly studied the subject; they would then not have committed themselves to opinions, which the observation of every day is destined to subvert, and which reason shows to be unfounded and fallacious.

The author next takes up the third proposition, viz., "That the organs of the various faculties of the mind are situated upon the surface of the brain, and to that surface, and consequently to them, the skull is secondarily moulded, and with great accuracy," &c. The first suggestion we have to offer here, is, that in stating a phrenological doctrine, it would seem no more than just that the language of some standard phrenological writer should be adopted, and not a self-made proposition, which expresses something different from what phrenology teaches. Thus we know no one that believes the "organs" to be situated entirely on the "surface of the brain." Mr. Combe says, "an organ may be likened to an inverted cone, with its apex in the medulla, and *its base as the surface of the brain*; the broader the base and larger the distance between it and the apex, the greater will be the size, or the quantity of matter which it will contain." Mr. Combe does not hold that these organs may be seen, thus disposed in the shape of cones, but introduces them by *way of illustration* to show that the organs are not confined to the "surface of the brain." The convolutions and the ventricles would, in fact, render such an exact arrangement impossible, and phrenology only teaches that the organs penetrate deep into the interior substance of the brain.

Dr. S. admits that the "skull is secondarily, and very precisely adapt-

ed to the brain," but yet denies that we can know, with any certainty, the inequalities or prominences on the surface of the brain during life, by examining the surfaces of the head. "There may be internal inequalities, amounting to nearly half an inch, of which there are no external signs"! This statement is altogether unworthy of Dr. S., who for many years was a professor of anatomy, and ought to be acquainted with the anatomy of the human skull. We appeal to any one who is in the habit of dissecting, whether this statement of Dr. S. is not practically erroneous. It is well known that the cranium is moulded upon the brain, according to the successive development of the cerebral parts, and, that though the two plates of the cranial bones may not always be exactly parallel, or of a uniform thickness, thus preventing the external surface from exactly representing the convolutions of the brain, yet, that this difference of parallelism is never sufficient to affect the calculations of the phrenologist, or set aside his conclusions. The departure from parallelism rarely amounts to one eighth of an inch, generally not more than one twelfth, while it is common to find a difference of an inch or more between similar organs of the propensities and sentiments, and half that difference, at least, in those of the intellect, in different persons. Magendie says that "the only way of estimating the volume of the brain, in a living person, is to measure the dimensions of the skull; every other means, even that proposed by Camper, is uncertain." Charles Bell observes, "we find that the bones of the head are moulded to the brain in a living person, and the peculiar shapes of the bones of the head are determined by the original peculiarity in the shape of the brain." These authorities may possibly outweigh the negative testimony of Dr. S. It is not, however, denied, that in *disease*, the skull may be thickened, as in the case referred to by Dr. Sewall; or, it may, from the same cause, be enlarged or diminished; and in *old age*, the bones may grow sensibly thinner; or the inner table may sink, while the outer one preserves its original shape and position. These are, however, but rare exceptions to a general rule. A very slight acquaintance with anatomy will enable us to make all necessary allowance for the sutures, sinuses, and occipital ridge, including the *frontal sinus*. If we admit that the frontal sinus prevents a correct appreciation of the size of a few organs, such as form, size, weight, &c., it certainly has nothing to do with the thirty-one other organs. We deny that Mr. Combe maintains "that all large frontal sinuses are the result of disease." There is no such statement to be found in his works. For a full and satisfactory reply to this objection, first urged by Dr. Barclay in the Edinburgh Review, we refer to Combe's "Phrenology"—p. 76, 7.8. We would, however, remark, that we have scarcely ever found any difficulty in distinguishing between external appearances, produced by the *frontal sinus*, and those indicating a large development of organs, for in the first instance the forms of the elevations are irregular, and in the second, symmetrical. Finally, do men manifest their true and natural sentiments and capacities in their actions? If this be so, then, as we have proved by the acknowledgments of the greatest anatomists, that the exact form of the brain may be determined by observing the figure of the skull, it follows that we are able to compare the faculties and their corresponding

development in living subjects, and thus to establish the proposition, "that the phrenological mode of philosophizing is competent to enable us to attain the results sought for."

It would be a very easy matter to show that our author has contradicted his most important statements, in many places. We shall point out a few, besides those already noticed. "Since the brain forms the material instrument of thought, it may well happen that quantity is, to a certain extent, indispensable to its efficiency." "Between individual and individual, mere bulk of head, within ordinary limits, is an element of no appreciable importance." "There is no difficulty in supposing that a full-sized, *well-formed* head will perform its functions, whatever may be their nature, more effectually than one which is diminutive, or ill shapen." "Little is the necessary connection between, either the *shape*, or the *bulk* of the brain, and the intelligence of the individual!"—p. 133. "There is nothing affording the slightest countenance to the notion of specific 'organs' in the brain." "No person supposes or contends, that every part of the cephalic mass is equally and constantly employed, whatever may be the feelings or trains of thought occupying the mind"! We have already pointed out several instances of unfairness on the part of Dr. S. and more could be adduced. We will, however, mention but a single instance more. "When Zerah Colburn," says Dr. S., "whose powers of calculation excited so much astonishment, was presented, Gall, knowing him, *from circumstances, to be an American lad*, had no difficulty in discovering the proper 'organ.'"—p. 139. Now, Colburn himself, in his "Memoirs" (p. 76), gives the following account of his introduction to Dr. Gall: "Dr. Gall, well known as the author of the System of Craniology, was then in Paris, and by means of his tutor, Zerah was introduced to him, *without the doctor's having any previous intimation of the character of his visitor*. Being requested by Mr. C. he proceeded to examine the cranium of his subject, and readily discovered, on the sides of the eyebrows, certain protuberances and peculiarities, which indicated the presence of a faculty of computation."

Dr. S. gives sundry reasons why there are believers in phrenology; which, by the way, he thinks no more strange, than that there should be found believers in *homeopathy and animal magnetism!* He has hit on everything but the true reason, and that is, *phrenology is founded in nature*—its proofs are so manifest, that "he who runs may read," if he will only keep his eyes open, and not go blind-folded about, as some would seem to have done. We do not wonder at the exclamation, "it is perfectly marvellous how small is our amount of exact truth," for we do not believe there is a phrenological doctrine or fact truly and plainly stated in the whole work. Such is the power of prejudice, and the poor ambition of achieving a victory.

Should it be asked, how has it happened that a man of Prof. Smith's talents should have so signally failed in his attack upon the doctrines of phrenology—doctrines which are now taught by the ablest physiologists of the age—we can only reply, that the author is, by taste, habit and education, a metaphysician, and nothing but a metaphysician. Such a mind as his can no more appreciate the facts of physiology, or form correct

conclusions on physical subjects, than a blind man can judge of colors, or a deaf man of music. It is doubtful, whether, with scalpel in hand, he would have patience to dissect an "organ," so prone would he be to speculate on its functions—he would rather prefer to consider *what life is*, than to investigate its phenomena. Having been taught to believe that the mind is simple, he infers that its seat in the brain is simple, and accordingly locates it in the *corpora olivaria*; the very idea of a plurality of organs for the different mental faculties, seems heretical, for it is contrary to anything taught by Locke, Malbranche, Reid or Stewart! Everything claiming to be new must be false, because it is new; he cannot believe that anything more is known of the philosophy of the mind, than what he taught when president of Williams and Mary. As to the brain, it may be "the material instrument of thought," but then "we are profoundly ignorant on the subject," and indeed, "knowledge on this point is not attainable at all." Gall is "a visionary," his system "a creation of the fancy." Such is the opinion of a metaphysician in relation to a system, built up exclusively by a rigid induction of facts, to the exclusion of everything not founded in nature—a system which appeals constantly to observation to confirm its doctrines, and sustain its deductions. How overwhelming to the lover of truth to find such a system, weighed in the scales of metaphysical abstraction, and absolute spiritualism, and then condemned authoritatively, because the bird's-eye dogmatist, wrapped in the conceit of his wire-drawn speculations, is unable to understand *how* the different fundamental qualities can act through material organs!*

CANDIDUS.

ANEURISM BY ANASTOMOSIS.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

Mrs. GRANT HOISINGTON, of Ellisburgh, Jefferson Co., N. Y., applied to me on the 1st of Sept., 1840, for advice in relation to a pulsating tumor which occupied the situation of the right orbit. It commenced at the lower margin of the eye, and extended down to the nose, crowding that member to the opposite side, and producing great deformity. It had been about one year progressing when I first saw it, and of late had grown very rapidly and caused much pain. I gave my opinion, and advised the operation of applying a ligature to the common carotid artery as the only means of doing any good. On the 10th of Sept. I was requested to visit Ellisburgh and perform the operation, which I did in the presence of Drs. Eastman, Sen. and Jun., Jones and others, assisted by Dr. John Binsse, of Watertown. Mrs. H. was 60 years of age, and though of a nervous temperament, bore the operation with great firmness. The wound was dressed in the usual manner, and the patient left with

* "If any whim can be conceived, beyond the pale of a sane imagination, it must be the idea that a diminutive mass of cerebral matter, four-fifths water, and as simple in construction, as small in quantity, can *per se*, and in virtue solely of its position, produce all the results, physiological and mental, which I have enumerated"! (p. 185.) Is it any more easy to conceive how the whole brain can be the instrument of the mind, than how a smaller portion of it may be the organ of a particular faculty?

Dr. Eastman. Extensive erysipelatous inflammation occurred on the following day, but was soon overcome, and the patient continued to do well, with ordinary attention. On the 39th day I removed the ligature, without any bad consequences following, and discharged her cured, she being then able to sit up and having a good appetite.

P. S.—In March, 1841, Mrs. H. died of confirmed phthisis.

Boston, July 3d, 1841.

F. A. CADWELL, M.D.

MILK-SICKNESS.

THE "*Mill Stone Knob*," in Sumner county, Tenn., is one of the localities which have been famed, since the settlement of the country, for giving rise to milk-sickness. It is now generally called the "*poison knob*." Yet domestic animals of every description may be seen, at this season, feeding upon the grass which grows luxuriantly on its sides wherever the sun has gained admission to the soil, and it is understood that they may continue to range it with safety until about the commencement of winter. In a hasty excursion which we made to the knob, a few weeks since, we saw, every now and then, a spot where a fire had been kindled to consume the carcass of some animal which had perished of the poison. Such occurrences, we learned, were still not uncommon in the neighborhood, yet owing to the caution of the people in keeping their milch-cows upon pastures which have been cultivated, a case of poisoning in the human subject has not occurred for three years. The country around the knob is thickly settled, and families are found living on the sides of the hill. They feel safe so long as they abstain from the flesh and milk of animals that have been ranging the "*poison knob*," or, in other words, while they confine their stock to their own cultivated grounds. This knob is one of the most fertile spots to be seen in that fertile region of country, and has a black, rich soil to its very summit, which is now covered with a luxuriant growth of cane. So fine is the pasture upon it, in winter, that persons drive their young cattle to it to pass that season. A few die of the poison, but they feel themselves indemnified in the saving of forage and labor that would be necessary to take the survivors through the winter. I need hardly add that the cause of this singular disease has not been discovered. The *remedy* for it is *prevention*, and this consists in bringing the soil under the dominion of the plough. One year's cultivation effectually eradicates the poison, and forever afterwards the lands infected by it, if sowed in grass, may be depastured with impunity. It is a fact attested by all with whom I conversed, that hogs and buzzards, as well as hens and turkeys, are poisoned by the flesh of animals that have died from this cause. Dr. Graffe, it may be known to some of the readers of this Journal, came to a contrary conclusion after some experiments upon the hog, as related in a late No. of the *Medical Examiner*.—*Western Jour. of Med. and Surg.*

BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

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ANATOMY, PHYSIOLOGY AND DISEASES OF THE EAR.

THERE is now in course of publication in the London *Lancet*, a series of lectures on these subjects, by Mr. George Pilcher, which are very acceptable. The sixth is particularly instructive, accompanied as it is by wood illustrations of the comparative anatomy of the batrachian family. It is quite impossible for any modern anatomist to exhibit any over-looked part of the beautiful mechanism of the internal ear, but it is certain that some individuals have a better and more agreeable method of explaining even old things, than others. Mr. Pilcher possesses the happy faculty of keeping up a constant interest—and he may therefore be regarded with favor. No one has succeeded better in the elucidation of an extremely intricate part of the body. Should these lectures by-and-by appear in the shape of a volume, unconnected with that mass of matter which enters into the composition of a journal, it will certainly extend the fame of the author.

Artificial Anatomy.—Messrs. Henry Rawls & Co. of Albany, have made arrangements with M. Auzoux, of Paris, for furnishing medical gentlemen in this country with his specimens of artificial anatomy, so called. These are the invention of Auzoux, who has attained universal celebrity as an imitator of the anatomy of man, and are made of a light substance, like the pulp in the vats of a paper-mill, from which the sheets are manufactured. The utility of the invention has never been questioned—but the price has prevented extensive sales, both here and in other countries. A large model of a man, six feet high, with case and stand, costs 3,200 francs; a small one, four feet high, 1,050 francs; a complete model of a female, 1000 francs; fourteen uteri, showing the product of conception at all periods of gestation, 500 francs; female pelvis, with surrounding parts, &c., 300 francs; fetal heart, of large dimensions, 50 francs; a leg and foot, large size, 150 francs, and those of small dimensions, 50 francs. Thus it will be perceived, that however desirable it may be to possess these ingenious copies from nature, it is far cheaper to make real preparations—which, after all, are infinitely superior to any imitations. Those who study anatomy or operative surgery solely on a manakin, will be better prepared for operating on paper men, than living beings. The road to anatomical knowledge is made so extremely delicate with some schools of late, that we fear the plain business of tying arteries, amputating crushed limbs, and saving life under circumstances which make immediate demands upon one's professional skill, will be conducted in a way that will not redound to the future credit of their graduates.

Hydropathic Institute.—When speaking of the new school of water doctors in Europe, a few months since, who are making proselytes amazingly fast, we predicted their introduction into this country, the most favorable of all soils for the propagation of new doctrines; but we hardly

suspected that the seed which had reached the United States in the shape of certificates of astonishing cures of very distinguished people, would germinate here so quickly as events have proved. In the town of Fonda, Montgomery Co., N. Y., a man who signs himself M. Richter, *professor of hydropathics*, has opened an infirmary for the treatment of all diseases incident to humanity, by the agency of *pure water*, principally applied externally, without the aid of any kind of medicine or medicinal preparations. There is an advertisement, together with a dialogue and some other explanatory processes of the hydropathic system, in the *Fonda Herald* of June 29th, which are worth reading, as a pseudo-scientific curiosity. We certainly wish this hydropathic mania all possible success; it is a method of treating some conditions of the body which common sense indicates, but is most sadly neglected because it has wanted the sanction of great names. If Professor Richter could be induced to locate his institute at the town-pump in Wharf street, the neighboring inhabitants might avail themselves of his services; and if they were not always cured, frequent ablutions, combined with soap and sand, under the direction of a master of undoubted intellectual calibre, would have the effect of convincing Bostonians that the operation in that part of the city was not injurious either to public or individual health.

Medical Institution of New Hampshire.—Lectures will commence in the medical department of Dartmouth College, a venerable and excellent institution, on Thursday, August 5th. A gentleman took up the circular the other day, and in reading over the names of the faculty, desired to know who Dr. Peaslee was—the new lecturer on anatomy and physiology. Happening to know that gentleman, it gives us much pleasure to assure those who may meet him for the first time in the anatomical theatre, that he is a man of refinement, kindness of manner, a thorough scholar, and fitted both by education and inclination for the chair to which the Corporation of the College have wisely called him. If the advantages of foreign study under the greatest scientific masters of the age, and in the most celebrated schools of anatomy and surgery in the world, are of consequence in completing the professional qualifications of a public instructor, superadded to high natural endowments, with a mind thoroughly cultivated at home before visiting the institutions of Europe, it was a happy choice for the future reputation of the medical school at Hanover, when Dr. Peaslee was selected.

Medical Sympathy.—A meeting of the Medical Society of the County of Jefferson, in the State of New York, was held on the 6th, at Watertown, the objects of which, and the resolutions that were unanimously passed, will be lasting memorials of the kindness, sympathy and moral worth of the profession in that part of our country. It will be recollect that Dr. Amasa Trowbridge, Jr., of that town, was recently thrown from a horse in the street, and almost instantly deprived of life. The father of the lamented deceased, is Dr. Amasa Trowbridge, professor of surgery in Willoughby University, Ohio, who in consequence of age and family bereavement, as we understand, has finally resolved to return to Watertown, the field in which, for upwards of thirty years, he has been a successful and distinguished operative surgeon. The second resolve has reference to Dr. Trowbridge's return. Where can less envy be found amongst

any body of men of the same profession, than amongst the medical practitioners of Jefferson County?

"Whereas this Society since its last annual meeting, through the dispensation of a wise and inscrutable Providence, have been called to mourn the appalling, painful and premature death of one of its most useful and distinguished members, viz., Amasa Trowbridge, Jr., M.D., of this village, *Therefore resolved*, That this Society deeply sympathize with the distinguished father, family and friends of the deceased, the medical profession in general, and the public at large, in this afflicting bereavement.

"Resolved, That this Society have learned with unfeigned satisfaction, that the father of the deceased contemplates a return to this county, the seat of his former usefulness, and that this Society greet him with a hearty welcome to his former place of residence to impart the blessings of his skill, and the wisdom of his counsel."

Dr. Poyen.—Frequent inquiries are made about the present residence of the gentleman whose name heads this paragraph. For a long while, unaided, ridiculed far and near, and often wholly misrepresented, he fearlessly endeavored to propagate what he considered the neglected study of animal magnetism. He wrote elaborately while in Boston, on that, to him, untiring subject, however antique it might have appeared to others; lectured upon it, whether he had many hearers or only a few; and, what still remains a memorial of his moral honesty with the printers, he always paid their bills—an item of no small account with one who is pushing an unpopular doctrine through an unbelieving community, against wind and tide, at the expense of his own pocket. A friend of the doctor's, and one for whom we entertain a profound feeling of personal respect, assures us that there is not the slightest foundation for the insinuations abroad in regard to Dr. Poyen's character. He considers him an upright, virtuous man, wholly intent upon the study of that philosophy which he believes promises the greatest amount of happiness in the social state. We most cheerfully give publicity to an opinion emanating from such a source, and confess our readiness to render all honor to whom it may be due. At present, Dr. Poyen resides in Paris, and is diligently pursuing medical studies in the hospitals of that famous city. Letters, therefore, may be addressed to him there.

Medicated Baths.—Dr. Gerrish has accomplished a desideratum in the structure of his very excellent medicated steam baths. The boiler is beneath the floor of the receiving room, out of sight, and the steam is conducted through pipes into the neat apartment where the patient is to receive its influence. Since all classes of practitioners in the city concur in the opinion that this is an important mode of treating very many diseases, they can alike direct those who consult them to Dr. G.'s elegant accommodations in Graphic court, nearly opposite the head of Franklin street. It is a convenience to have access to such a place; any form of bath which the physician may think it advisable to prescribe, is readily given by Dr. Gerrish, with as much precision as an apothecary would weigh out the several parts of a prescription. The bath-rooms are tastefully fitted up, and a degree of neatness pervades the whole establishment, creditable to the proprietor's good management.

Division of a Sphincter.—At one of the late meetings of the London Medical Society, Mr. Hird related the case of a patient who had suffered excruciating pain in consequence of the existence of a remarkable tenderness in a spot just within the rectum, about the size of a shilling-piece. Not yielding to any of the remedies which were prescribed, with a bistoury the surgeon divided the sphincter, which gave instant relief, and the gentleman remains permanently cured.

Medical Miscellany.—In the Boston Courier of July 20th, is an account of a surgical operation, performed with a cheese knife and carpenter's saw, on a man whose limbs were injured on the Erie Railroad, at Piermont.—A journal in France details the circumstances of the death of a woman of 60, in consequence of the venomous bite of a toad!—Dr. Hough, of New Orleans, convicted of an aggravated assault on a young female, has been sentenced to hard labor in the Penitentiary for two years, and at the expiration of that period to find surety in \$2000 for his good behavior for one year.

ERRATA.—In No. 21 the name of Dr. Shipman, on pages 344 and 345, was twice spelt with the initials A. W. instead of A. B.

MARRIED.—At Enfield, Mass., James H. Gray, M.D., to Miss R. W. Capen.—At Philadelphia, J. D. Miller, M.D., U. S. N., to Miss Julia Barton.—In Raleigh, Shelby County, Tenn., Dr. Wm. A. F. Barry, to Miss Frances A. Taylor.—At Coxsackie, N. Y., Henry H. Toumlinson, M.D., to Miss C. C. Adams.

DIED.—At New York, Dr. William J. McNevin, 79, a native of Ireland.—At Wrentham, Mass., Dr. Samuel Bugbee, 60.—In Pasquotank County, Dr. Wm. H. Williams, of North Carolina. The deceased was a native of Berkshire County, Mass., but had been for more than thirty years a resident of North Carolina.

Number of deaths in Boston for the week ending July 24, 33.—Males, 15; Females, 18. Stillborn, 2. Of consumption, 3—infantile, 3—teething, 1—lung fever, 2—dysentery, 2—drowned, 1—fits, 4—intemperance, 2—bowel complaint, 2—dropsy, 1—hooping cough, 1—croup, 1—disease of the heart, 1—typhus fever, 1—chronic diarrhoea, 1—menstrus, 1—bleeding at lungs, 1—bronchitis, 1—smallpox, 2.

UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK.—DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE.
The annual course of Lectures will commence on the last Monday of October next, and continue until the ensuing March.

VALENTINE MOTT, M.D., Professor of Surgery.

GRANVILLE SHARP PATTISON, M.D., Professor of Anatomy.

JOHN REVERE, M.D., Professor of Theory and Practice of Medicine.

MARTYN PAINE, M.D., Professor of the Institutes of Medicine and Materia Medica.

GINNING, S. BEDFORD, M.D., Professor of Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children.

JOHN W. DRAPER, M.D., Professor of Chemistry.

The fees for a full course of lectures amount to \$105. Matriculation fee, \$5. Respectable board and lodging can be obtained at from \$2.50 to \$3.00 per week.

In addition to the facilities which the hospitals of New York offer for clinical instruction, a **SCROPHULARIAL CLINIQUE** has been instituted in the College building under the direction of the Professors of Surgery and Anatomy.

JOHN W. DRAPER,

Secretary to the Faculty.

Jy 28—eoptN1

TREMONT-STREET MEDICAL SCHOOL.

The subscribers, at their rooms in Tremont street, continue to give personal instruction to private pupils as heretofore, in the various branches of medicine, in connection with the practical pursuit of anatomy, and attendance on the Massachusetts General Hospital, the Eye and Ear Infirmary, and the other opportunities belonging to their school.

Jy 28—eopy

JACOB BIGELOW,
EDWARD REYNOLDS,
D. HUMPHREYS STORER,
OLIVER W. HOLMES.

TO PHYSICIANS.

A PHYSICIAN who has been in practice for the last seven years, in the eastern part of Maine, wishing to change his location for one in the interior of Massachusetts or Connecticut, would purchase, exchange, or, what would be more preferable, enter into partnership with one who has been in good practice for a long series of years. Address the editor, post-paid.

Jy 28—4w

BERKSHIRE MEDICAL INSTITUTION.

The annual course of Lectures will commence the first Thursday, 5th of August, 1841, and continue thirteen weeks. Fee for the whole course of lectures, \$50; fee for those who have attended two courses at any respectable medical school, \$10; graduation fee, \$18; library fee according to the number of books taken. Board, from \$1.50 to \$2.00.

Theor. and Practice of Medicine and Obstetrics, by
Principles and Practice of Surgery, by
Anatomy and Physiology, by
General and Special Pathology, by
Materia Medica and Pharmacy, by
Chemistry, Botany, and Natural Philosophy, by
Demonstrator of Anatomy,
Pittsfield, Mass., May, 1841.

Je 9-1L

H. H. CHILDS, M.D.
FRANK H. HAMILTON, M.D.
JAMES MCCLINTOCK, M.D.
ALONZO CLARK, M.D.
M. A. LEE, M.D.
CHESTER DEWEY, M.D.
C. C. CHAPPEE, M.D.
PARKER HALL, *Secretary.*

NEW HAMPSHIRE MEDICAL INSTITUTION.

The annual course of Lectures in this Institution will commence on Thursday, the 5th of August next, and continue three months.

DIXI CROSBY, M.D., Professor of Surgery, Obstetrics, and Diseases of Women and Children.
EDWARD E. PEARLS, M.D., Lecturer on Materia Medica, Medical Jurisprudence, and Medical Botany.

OLIVER P. HUBBARD, M.D., Professor of Chemistry and Pharmacy.

JOSEPH ROBY, M.D., Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine and Pathological Anatomy.

EDMOND R. PRASLER, M.D., Lecturer on Anatomy and Physiology.

Expenses for the course of lectures, \$50.00. Graduating, \$18. Matriculating, \$3.00. Board may be had at \$1.33 to \$2.00 per week, and abundant facilities for those who may wish to board themselves. The fees must be paid at the commencement of the term, or notes given with satisfactory security. All operations before the medical class are performed gratis.

By order of the Faculty,
Dartmouth College, Hanover, June 15, 1841. Je 23-1A7 OLIVER P. HUBBARD, *Sec'y.*

UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

The annual course of Lectures for the session of 1841 and 42 will commence on the first Monday of November, 1841, and continue until the first of March, 1842.

J. AUGUSTINE SMITH, M.D., Prof. of Physiology.

ALEX. H. STEVENS, M.D., Emeritus Prof. of Surgery.

JOSEPH MURRAY SMITH, M.D., Prof. of the Theory and Practice of Physic and Clinical Medicine.

JOHN B. BECK, M.D., Prof. of Materia Medica and Medical Jurisprudence.

JOHN TORREY, M.D., Prof. of Chemistry and Botany.

ROBERT WATTS, JR., M.D., Prof. of General, Special and Pathological Anatomy.

WILLARD PARKER, M.D., Prof. of the Principles and Practice of Surgery and Surgical Anatomy.

CHANDLER R. GILMAN, M.D., Prof. of Obstetrics and the Diseases of Women and Children.

JAMES QUACKENBOS, M.D., Demonstrator of Anatomy.

Matriculation fee, \$5. Fee for the full course of lectures, \$108. Dissecting and Demonstration ticket, \$5. Graduation fee, \$25. Good board may be procured in this city for from \$2.50 to \$3.00 per week.

N. B.—A preliminary course of lectures will be delivered by the Faculty during the month of October, commencing on the first Monday. This course will be free to the students of the College. The dissecting rooms will be opened for the season on the first Monday of October.

New York, 15th June, 1841. Je 23-epif

MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY.

CEYVERS' MEETING.—There will be a stated meeting of the Censors for the First District and Society at large, at the house of Dr. John Jeffries, No. 9 Franklin street, Boston, on Wednesday, the 26th of July, 1841, at 4 o'clock, P.M. Je 30-epm JOHN JEFFRIES, *Secretary.*

PRIVATE MEDICAL INSTRUCTION.

The subscribers having been long engaged in private medical instruction, propose to receive pupils, and to devote to them such time and opportunities for study and practice as are necessary for a medical education. Their pupils will be admitted without fee to the lectures on midwifery in the Massachusetts Medical College, to the practice of the Massachusetts Hospital, and have opportunities for the study of practical anatomy under the immediate superintendence of Dr. Otis. Terms may be learned by calling on Dr. Otis, No. 8 Chambers street. Fuel, lights and rooms without charge.

WALTER CHANNING,
GEORGE W. OTIS, JR.

Boston, August 19, 1840.

VACCINE VIRUS.

PHYSICIANS in any section of the United States can procure ten quills charged with PURE VACCINE VIRUS, by return mail, on addressing the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, enclosing one dollar, *post paid*, without which no letter will be taken from the post office.

June 19

THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL is published every Wednesday, by D. CLAPP, JR., at 134 Washington St., corner of Franklin St., to whom all communications must be addressed, *post paid*. It is also published in Monthly Parts, with a printed cover. There are two volumes each year. J. V. C. SMITH, M.D., Editor. Price \$3.00 a year in advance, \$3.50 after three months, or \$4.00 if not paid within the year. Two copies to the same address, for \$5.00 a year, in advance. Orders from a distance must be accompanied by payment in advance or satisfactory reference. Postage the same as for a newspaper.